

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. They are using the public airwaves as a vehicle for spreading political propaganda, something they are on record as being opposed to. When Sinclair directed many of its stations to refuse to show 'Nightline' when Ted Koppel read the names of soldiers who were killed in Iraq, they justified it by calling the show "a political statement". But how could this phony documentary be anything but a one-sided political statement, especially when shown just days before a national election?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.